



# NEWS RELEASE

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

## **HEADQUARTERS STANDARD SYSTEMS GROUP**

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## **Maxwell-Gunter to conduct POW/MIA vigil and retreat**

**MAXWELL AFB, GUNTER ANNEX, Ala--**Members of the Standard Systems Group will honor the nation's prisoners of war and missing in action on Sept. 19, with a formal retreat and flag folding ceremony.

The retreat, which begins at 4:15 p.m., will conclude a 24-hour vigil begun Thursday afternoon by members of the Maxwell-Gunter Company Grade Officers' Council. Officers are taking turns in one-hour shifts to sit silently inside a mock bamboo prison cage, reflective of the conditions of former prisoners of war.

This is SSG's fifth annual ceremony, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Grover Henry, POW/MIA chairperson, said. "The idea is to remember those who died in combat and to remind people there are still those who have yet to return. It's a way to remember the heroism and sacrifices made by tens of thousands of Americans who endured captivity in enemy hands, as well as those whose fate remains unknown."

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**POW/MIA vigil and retreat**  
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POW/MIA Day recognizes the sacrifices of those service members who were prisoners of war or who are still listed as missing in action. In 1997, a presidential proclamation listed the purpose of POW/MIA Day was to "never forget those who have borne the indignities and sufferings of captivity in service to our country."

The proclamation also recognized "with special sympathy and concern, the courageous families who maintain their steadfast vigil and perseverance in their search for answers and for the peace that comes only with certainty" of knowing the fate of their loved ones who are still listed as missing in action.

Commonly associated by many with the Vietnam War, the day actually recognizes all service members who were POWs or listed as MIA.

Media representatives who plan to attend the ceremony should call SSG/PA at 416-4319 or 318-0053 (cell) in order to be cleared through security.

**-SSG-**